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Nigeria

Trade Policy Monitoring

GON Lifts Import Ban on Ice Cream

2003

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Report Highlights:

The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) has announced the lifting of the import ban on ice cream and other edible ices. This follows Post's efforts to engage NAFDAC in constructive dialogue. Importers of premium quality U.S. ice cream have indicated plans to resume purchases.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Lagos [NI1]
[NI]

Executive Summary

The GON has lifted its import ban on ice cream and other edible ices. In a letter to Agricultural Affairs Office dated October 28, 2003, the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), announced that after critical examination of the administrative ban placed on ice cream and other edible ices, NAFDAC has decided to lift the ban based on current information and research carried out. The decision to rescind the ban follows regular dialogue between NAFDAC and the Agricultural Affairs Office. The removal of this trade barrier has cleared the way for the resumption of imports of premium quality U.S. ice cream to Nigeria, valued at close to \$400,000 per annum.

In a related development, NAFDAC's deadline to the supermarkets to remove all banned grocery products (except poultry meat) from the shelf by December 2003 has been extended to June 2004. The extension follows a meeting between the Director General of the Agency and AgAttache. AgAttache drew NAFDAC's attention to the fact that some of the banned items imported prior to the ban could have life span exceeding the deadline of December 2003.

Meanwhile, the GON has issued Emergency Rules intended to relieve very heavy congestion in Nigerian ports. Under these rules, shipments that do not have Clean Report of Inspection (CRI) number on the Bills of Lading must be cleared by October 30 or be confiscated. Nigeria's new emergency rules apply to all receivers. To avoid confiscation of shipments, receivers must arrange for the release of cargo as soon as possible.